

ROBERTSON GATE
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

HABS NO. 11-7
HABS
VA.
8- STAU
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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. 11

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PHILIP N STERN, DISTRICT OFFICER
21 LAW BLDG. FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

HISTORICAL DATA

The house was built in 1789 for Judge Archibald Stuart and was completed in 1791. It was designed by Thomas Jefferson. His son Alexander H. H. Stuart, Secretary of the Interior in President Fillmore's Cabinet, inherited the property. He died in 1891 and his daughter, Mrs. Margaret Briscoe Robertson, wife of Alexander Robertson, inherited the property and has lived here ever since.

According to tradition in the Robertson family the gate was built during the lifetime of Judge Archibald Stuart.

The gatepost is on Church Street and this street and all of the area to the east of it down to the C. & O. Railway station, a distance of 500 feet or more, was a part of the front premises ~~of the property~~ up to the Civil War. It is thought, therefore, that the gateway has been moved from some other location to its present location. A picture of the house in a book of Staunton and Augusta County made by Hotchkiss in 1870 shows the gate in its present location and the stone steps as they are now. These steps are said, however, by some of the oldest inhabitants, to have been an addition after the Civil War.

The balls on top of the gatepost are not original, but are faithful copies. The old wrought-iron hardware is gone but the cutting and bolt holes still show where it was.

References: Samuel J. Collins. Alexander F. Robertson in Homes and Gardens of Old Virginia, p.p. 261-263. See also Washington Herald, Sunday, July 12, 1936, copy in Early American Archives.

Philip H. Stone

Reviewed 1936, H. C. F.